

NUÑEZ NEW ASSEMBLY SPEAKER- DESIGNATE

Assm. [Fabien Nuñez](#) of Los Angeles has been selected by the Assembly Democratic Caucus as its designated Speaker-elect. Assuming he receives a majority vote of the full Assembly when it next reconvenes in regular session in January, Nuñez will take over the speakership from current holder [Herb Wesson](#) (D-Los Angeles) some time early in 2004. When the transfer takes place, however, is up in the air; some news reports were suggesting January, though Speaker Wesson has evinced a desire to retain his office until after the March primary.



Nuñez, 36, reportedly has the support of 44 of the 48 Democratic members of the Assembly (including according to a press release issued by his office, Speaker Wesson) – more than the 41 votes required. Nuñez reportedly broke a three-way logjam when Assm. [Dario Frommer](#) (D-Los Feliz) abandoned the chase and threw his support behind Nuñez, thereby giving him the votes in caucus to defeat Assm. [Jenny Oropeza](#) (D-Long Beach), the early front-runner.

One of twelve children from an immigrant family of day laborers, Nuñez served as Political Director for the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor prior to his election to the Assembly in 2002.



Like [Kevin McCarthy](#), 38, (R-Bakersfield), his counterpart Assembly Republican Leader-elect, Nuñez is just completing his first year of legislative service. That means for the first time in several years, it is quite possible that the leadership in the Assembly could remain constant for four years or more. Since term limits ended the record 14-year tenure of former Speaker Willie L. Brown, Jr., in 1995, no individual has held the post for more than two years and two months.

BUSY WEEK FOR NEW GOVERNOR, LEGISLATURE

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger hit the ground running after his inauguration last Monday. After signing the well-publicized executive order ([S-1-03](#)) rescinding the action that tripled the state's Vehicle License Fee (see last week's [Sacramento Scene](#)), his second official action was to sign a subsequent

executive order ([S-2-03](#)) immediately deferring the effectiveness of all pending regulations, including emergency regulations, for up to 180 days, pending further review by the Office of Administrative Law.

The order also directs state agencies to review all regulations adopted, amended or repealed by since January 6, 1999, and to report their findings within 90 days to the Legal Affairs Secretary.

In addition to the executive orders, the Governor issued three [proclamations](#) calling the Legislature into current extraordinary sessions "to [address runaway workers compensation](#), [establish real budget reform](#) and to [repeal SB60](#)."

By Thursday, two bills had been introduced in the Third Extraordinary Session (SB 60), eight in the Fourth Extraordinary Session (workers comp), and four in the Fifth Extraordinary Session. Both houses of the Legislature worked through the week, and are scheduled to return in session next Monday through Wednesday.

GOVERNOR TURNS AGAIN TO CHAMBER TO FILL KEY STAFF POSITION

Governor Schwarzenegger Wednesday filled another top-level position in his administration with an executive from the California Chamber of Commerce, the state's leading pro-business group, appointing [Cassandra Pye](#) as Deputy Chief of Staff for External Affairs.



Pye, 44, has spent 12 years with the Chamber, most recently as Vice President for Corporate Affairs, where she was responsible for the Chamber's political activities, including administration for the Public Affairs Council and various political action committees.

Pye is the second appointee to a key post from the Chamber, following the appointment of Chamber top lobbyist Richard Costigan as Legislative Secretary.

NEW LEGISLATIVE PORTAL

The State Legislature recently unveiled its new "[Legislative Portal](#)," which provides a centralized site for information about the activities of the Legislature, including a schedule of daily events and a calendar, rosters of members and district maps, and a bill search engine.